

Field Crops

Precipitation during the October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998 water year was 119 percent of normal for the state. Divisions ranged from 102 to 144 percent of normal.

PRINCIPAL CROPS

Utah farmers planted 1.11 million acres to principal crops in 1998, down 2 percent from 1997. Harvested acres were 1.05 million acres, 3 percent less than 1997. Preliminary total value of principal crops was \$290.2 million compared with \$314.4 million in 1997.

HAY

Alfalfa hay harvested, at 545,000 acres, was unchanged from 1997. Yield averaged a record high 4.40 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from 1997. Total production of 2.4 million tons was a record high and was up 2 percent from 1997.

All other hay harvested, at 165,000 acres, compared with 170,000 acres harvested in 1997. The average yield of 2.30 tons per acre produced 380,000 tons, up 2 percent from 1997. Both 1998 yield and production were record highs.

The 1997 **all hay** crop was valued at \$210.3 million which was down 6 percent from 1997. The price per ton, at \$78.00, was down \$6.00 from the previous year.

SMALL GRAINS

Planted acreage for all wheat was 179,000 acres, down 8 percent from 1997; barley planted, at 95,000 acres, was down 5,000 acres; while oats, at 50,000 acres, remained the same as 1997.

Winter wheat harvested acreage, at 150,000 acres, was 9 percent less than 1997, and the yield, at a record high 50 bushels per acre, was up from the 46 bushels per acre in 1997. Total production, at 7.5 million bushels, was down 90,000 bushels from 1997. Value of

production decreased 17 percent to \$20.6 million.

Other spring wheat harvested acreage, at 23,000 acres, was down 4 percent from 1997. The average yield, at 58 bushels per acre, was 10 bushels above the previous year, and production, at 1.3 million bushels, was up 16 percent from the previous year. Value of production, at \$3.3 million, was down 19 percent from 1997.

Barley acreage harvested, at 85,000 acres, was 11 percent below 1997. Production, at 7.1 million bushels, was 925,000 bushels less than 1997. The average yield of 83.0 bushels per acre was one bushel below the previous year. The 1998 barley crop was valued at \$12.0 million, down 34 percent from 1997.

Oat production, at 630,000 bushels, was 12 percent below the previous year. Growers harvested 9,000 acres for grain, 1,000 acres less than the previous year. The value of production, at \$851,000, was down 40 percent from the previous year.

CORN

Corn acreage planted **for all purposes**, at 62,000 acres, was the same as 1997.

Corn acreage harvested **for grain**, at a record high 24,000 acres, was up 20 percent from 1997. The average yield for grain, at 141 bushels per acre, was down 6 bushels from the 1997 level. Grain production totaled a record high 3.4 million bushels, up 15 percent from 1997. The crop was valued at \$8.1 million, down 9 percent from the previous year.

Corn for silage production totaled 777,000 tons compared with 943,000 tons in 1997. A total of 37,000 acres was harvested. The value of the crop was \$20.2 million compared with \$26.4 million in 1997.

